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INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2332  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 000889

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR G. GARLAND  
DRL FOR N. WILETT  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU  
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS  
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/01/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: TSVANGIRAI ON AGREEMENT STALEMATE

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

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SUMMARY  
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¶1. (SBU) MDC leader and prime minister designate Morgan Tsvangirai briefed Western Heads of Mission (HOMS) October 1 on the stalemate in talks directed at concluding an agreement to establish a power-sharing government. Tsvangirai said the talks had stalled over Mugabe's failure to cede the home affairs and finance ministries to the MDC. He did not believe that Mugabe wanted to scuttle the talks, but was facing resistance from within ZANU-PF. Tsvangirai stated that the process of establishing a power-sharing government was irreversible; SADC assistance and international pressure would be important in moving the process forward. END SUMMARY.

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Stalemate  
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¶2. (SBU) Tsvangirai informed diplomats he had met on September 30 with Mugabe to follow up on outstanding issues, principally the division of ministries between ZANU-PF and the MDC. Although four ministries had not been decided on--home affairs, finance, local government, and foreign affairs--only home affairs and finance were discussed. Mugabe insisted that ZANU-PF name the heads of these ministries. Tsvangirai refused to cede what he considered to be critical ministries to ZANU-PF. He told the HOMS that talks had not broken off; he and Mugabe had agreed to disagree and he expected a resumption of talks.

¶3. (SBU) According to Tsvangirai, Mugabe told him that some in ZANU-PF wanted to throw out the September 11 agreement. Tsvangirai opined that ZANU-PF was deeply divided. He commented that the Joint Operational Command (JOC), supported by Reserve Bank governor Gideon Gono and Grace Mugabe, had met last week to discuss delaying the inauguration of the new

government and marginalizing Tsvangirai. Nevertheless, Tsvangirai believed that Mugabe himself was committed to an agreement and was prepared to the extent possible to fight ZANU-PF elements opposed to a deal. Mugabe realized that the JOC and other opponents had no solutions to Zimbabwe's problems. His refusal to agree with Tsvangirai on the issue of ministries was a result, according to Tsvangirai, of pressures from within ZANU-PF.

14. (C) Despite the stalemate, Tsvangirai argued that the process which would include the MDC as a major player in government was irreversible. This was due to significant domestic momentum for change and continuing international interest. The country was now being held hostage to 40 or 50 ZANU-PF insiders clinging to power and this should not and would not continue.

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Next Steps  
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15. (SBU) Tsvangirai said Mugabe had relied on Mbeki during negotiations and was regretting his potential absence from the process. Tsvangirai himself thought Mbeki could continue to play a useful role and had spoken to him a couple of days ago. Mbeki told Tsvangirai his continuing position as mediator would be dependent on support from new South African president Motlanthe. Tsvangirai said he subsequently approached the South African ambassador to Zimbabwe to suggest Motlanthe support Mbeki's mediation role. Tsvangirai

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also suggested to the HOMs that ANC president Jacob Zuma could play an influential role. He said he had talked to Zuma and urged him to make a statement in support of a balanced power-sharing agreement. (COMMENT: Disconcertingly, Tsvangirai said he had no timetable for concluding an agreement, raising the possibility that negotiations could drag on without a government being formed. END COMMENT.)

16. (SBU) Turning to the international community, Tsvangirai urged the U.S. and EU to make statements supporting a process ending in a government that reflected the will of the people. It should also be made clear to ZANU-PF that any assistance must be based on political and economic reform.

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Mutambara on Board  
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17. (SBU) Tsvangirai said he had spoken with Arthur Mutambara immediately before the diplomatic briefing. Despite differences with the MDC-Mutambara faction during negotiations and in the election of the House of Assembly speaker, Tsvangirai believed Mutambara was fully behind Tsvangirai's efforts to achieve a fair division of ministries and equitable power-sharing agreement.

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COMMENT  
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18. (C) Tsvangirai in briefing the HOMs professed sympathy for Mugabe in battling forces within ZANU-PF and seemed to blame opponents of Mugabe within ZANU-PF rather than Mugabe for the stalemate in talks. We're not convinced. Mugabe wrung significant concessions from Tsvangirai in the September 11 agreement and convinced him to sign with the promise that the division of ministries could be easily worked out. Mugabe may well be using the ostensible inflexibility of others within ZANU-PF in an effort to continue securing concessions from Tsvangirai.

19. (C) With Mbeki at least partly out of the picture, Motlanthe and Jacob Zuma are increasingly important in mediating a final agreement. We suggest encouraging

Tsvangirai to meet with Motlanthe to explore continued South African assistance in the mediation process. Tsvangirai could suggest to Motlanthe that the SADC reference group--the AU (Jean Ping) and UN (Haile Menkerios)--which has an institutional memory of the process be brought in to support SADC and its designated mediator, whether Mbeki or someone else. END COMMENT.

MCGEE